

Message Text

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21

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /117 W

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R 100740Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1902

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS MU

SUBJECT: OMANDEL PREPARES FOR LOS SESSIONS

REF: STATE 54588

1. REFTEL ARRIVED DAY AFTER LATEST EMBASSY DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY AL ALAWI CONCERNING, INER ALIA, LOS MATTERS. HENCE, WHILE SOME OF POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL NOT RAISED, OTHERS WERE.

2. IN REPOSE TO EMOFF'S QUESTION CONCERNING OMANI TEAM NOW VISITING CAPITALS TO DISCUSS LOS (MUSCAT 184), AL ALAWI EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS TO DATE. AT TIME OF MARCH 7
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CONVERSATION, TEAM WAS ON LAST STOP, BAGHDAD. AL ALAWI FURTHER

CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED THAT LOS WILL MOVE AWAY FROM FREE PASSAGE FORMULATION. HE BASED THIS SUPPOSITION TO HIS CONTENTION THAT SMALL STATES, ESPECIALLY LDC'S, ARE SUSPICIOUS OF MOTIVES BEHIND MAJOR POWER INSISTENCE ON FREE PASSAGE. DESPITE THIS ALLEGED QUESTIONING, AL ALAWI PERSONALLY ACCEPTED ARGUMENTS THAT FAR-REACHING SECURITY INTERESTS COULD BE PLACED AT RISK IF PASSAGE DENIED, E.G., TO SIXTH FLEET UNITS. HIS ANSWER WOULD BE TO FOLLOW UP LOS WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH AFFECTED RIPARIAN STATE TO EXEMPT U.S. MEN-OF-WAR.

3. FURTHER TO QUESTION OF STRAITS PASSAGE WHICH IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE FOCUS FOR OMANI ATTENTION, AL ALAWI FRANKLY STATED THAT USG DECLARATION THAT WE COULD NOT SIGN CONVENTION WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE FREE PASSAGE IS SO RIGID A POSITION THAT IT EVOKES EQUALLY RIGID RESPONSE. HE OPINED THAT TIME HAS COME FOR NEGOTIATION--BUT IMPLICATION CLEAR THAT OMANGOV EXPECTS ANY GIVE ON STRAITS ISSUE TO COME FROM THOSE SUPPORTING FREE PASSAGE.

4. ON MARCH 9 EMBASSY RECEIVED PASSPORTS FOR OMANDEL TO NEW YORK LOS SESSIONS. MEMBERS ARE: UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS YUSUF AL ALAWI (CHAIRMAN); AHMAD AL JAMALI, OMANI AMBASSADOR TO PARIS (AND FREQUENT MEMBER OF PREVIOUS OMANDELS ON LOS); ZAHER NASSIR AL KINDY, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN FONMIN; AND MAJID ABDULLAH AL ASFOOR, LISTED ONLY AS "SECOND SECRETARY".

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Message Attributes

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